



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 08 January 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports small airports are a security concern and tens of thousands of small private planes are vulnerable to the kind of hijacking incident that occurred Sunday in Germany. (See item [8](#))
- InfoWorld reports that according to a Microsoft spokesman, MSN Messenger service went down yesterday morning, affecting millions of subscribers, and the root cause of the outage is still unknown. (See item [20](#))
- Security Focus reports the new California law requiring companies to notify their customers of computer security breaches applies to any online business that counts Californians as customers, even if the company isn't based in the Golden State. (See item [22](#))
- The Associated Press reports Scotland Yard announced the arrest of six men of North African origin after finding traces of ricin in a London property. (See item [23](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated (Yellow), Cyber: Elevated (Yellow)

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 07, New York Times* — Venezuela plans to split state oil company. Energy Minister Rafael Ramírez said today that the government planned to take the state-owned oil company, the world's fifth largest, and break it in two, hoping to snap the back of a devastating six-week strike aimed at driving President Hugo Chávez from power.

Ramírez, who offered preliminary details of the plan in an interview, said the government intended a sweeping restructuring of Petróleos de Venezuela. **The company, widely known by its Spanish acronym, Pdvsa (pronounced peh-deh-VEH-sah), controls the largest oil fields outside the Middle East and is an important supplier to the United States.** He said the government would "decentralize" the company by dividing it into Pdvsa East and Pdvsa West and hollowing out the Caracas-based management. Such a move would effectively gut the company of middle- and upper-level executives who have joined a coalition of business and labor leaders in opposing Chávez, whose left-leaning policies they say are destroying the country. Opponents said floating such a plan amounted to government bluster aimed at breaking the morale of what they estimate are 30,000 oil workers who have joined the strike. **Ramírez said the goal was to restore the company's production capacity of some 3.1 million barrels of crude oil a day while reducing "exorbitant bureaucratic costs," which he estimated at \$1 billion.** He said the company produced about 14 million barrels last month and was currently turning out 800,000 barrels a day, a quarter of what output was before the strike. Outside experts expressed doubts that the company was producing even that much oil, and they were immediately skeptical that the plan could revive production to pre-strike levels. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/07/international/americas/07VENE.html>

2. *January 07, Associated Press* — **OPEC members weigh increasing oil output.** OPEC members weigh increasing oil output representatives plan an emergency meeting this weekend to discuss boosting the cartel's crude production by up to 6.5 percent, an OPEC official said Tuesday. **Oil prices have surged in recent weeks from concerns about deepening turmoil in Venezuela and a possible war against Iraq – two key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The group is now weighing proposals to increase output by as much as 1.5 million barrels a day in an effort to dampen prices.** A hike in production would represent an abrupt reversal in OPEC policy. OPEC's 11 members decided less than a month ago to slash output by up to 1.7 million barrels a day in the hope of preventing a price decline when seasonal demand dips this spring. OPEC supplies about one-third of the world's crude. **Saudi Arabia, OPEC's most influential member, has proposed that the group raise output by 1.5 million barrels a day.** OPEC has been inconsistent in applying its output-adjustment mechanism in the past, but current market conditions suggest members would face strong pressure to do so this time. Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&wo_en_po/eu_fin_opec_4

3. *January 06, The Topeka Capital-Journal* — **Hard and fast rules ensure the security of the Wolf Creek nuclear power plant. Since the 9-11 terrorist attacks the power plant has beefed up its security and spent more than \$2 million, half of which was spent in one-time costs such as the tire shredder and additional security cameras.** The plant — which is partially owned by Westar Energy — added another \$1 million to its annual operating budget to address ongoing security costs such as personnel and training expenses. **Plant security people have confidence that nuclear power plants built like Wolf Creek are robust enough to endure airline crashes. The plant is covered with four feet of concrete on top of a one-inch steel liner.** In August, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a standing order to all nuclear plants to upgrade nearly every aspect of their operations, Cox said. Most of the new security requirements haven't been made public, however. Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3551776

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *January 07, Associated Press* — **Defense Dept. plans to increase funding, reorganize Special Forces units.** The U.S. Defense Department plans to give its elite commando units a greater role in fighting the war on terrorism and will provide more money, equipment and troops to special operations forces, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday. Special Forces commanders will have greater authority to initiate operations and tap into the regular military's resources to do so, Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials told reporters. **Neither Rumsfeld nor other officials who briefed reporters would say how much more money and how many more troops the Defense Department is seeking for the commando units in next year's budget. Officials told The Associated Press last month that plans for Special Operations Command called for a 20 percent budget increase in 2004, or \$1 billion, and an 8 percent increase in personnel, about 4,000 people.** President George W. Bush next month will release his proposed budget for the 2004 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. A senior defense official said Tuesday that the Pentagon's budget proposal had not yet been approved by the White House.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=storyp_woen_po/na_gen_us_special_operations_forces_1

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *January 07, Washington Post* — **D.C. disputes insurance study raising rates for terrorism.** D.C. Insurance Commissioner Lawrence H. Mirel said he will reject rate increases based on a **new insurance study that classifies the nation's capital as a prime target for terrorist attacks because it could increase commercial premiums as much as 150 percent beginning next month.** "If what they presented were to stick, the District would become a ghost town," said Mirel, who added that the industry must recalculate its ratings or risk a regulatory standoff. "Nobody would be able to do business here. With that kind of an increase, everyone would leave for the suburbs." The D.C. commissioner's objections offer a first glimpse at how insurers nationwide are setting about the difficult task of defining the risk of terrorist threats in dollars and cents. A new federal terrorism insurance law signed late last year by President Bush requires companies to begin offering coverage for potentially catastrophic losses by Feb. 24. **But while the law mandates coverage, pricing remains a problem for major cities such as Washington because there is little experience with terrorist attacks, yet the cost is potentially astronomical.** Washington officials are not alone in their concern. ISO's study placed Washington, New York, Chicago and San Francisco in the highest of three risk tiers, regulators said. A second tier consists of Los Angeles, Houston, Philadelphia, Boston and

Seattle. The rest of the country fell into a third tier. ISO rated the first-tier cities 100 times riskier than the rest of the country and the second-tier cities 10 times riskier, regulators said. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19429-2003Jan6.htm>

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Transportation Sector

6. *January 07, Buffalo News* — **Screeners find gun in suitcase.** A Lancaster, New York man who allegedly tried to smuggle a handgun onto a flight to Cancun, Mexico, is the first local suspect to be arrested under a new Homeland Security baggage screening initiative at Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Federal prosecutors said Daniel D. Kochmanski was arrested over the weekend after airport screeners found a .25-caliber handgun hidden inside a cable television converter box, which was packed inside Kochmanski's suitcase. Authorities were skeptical of the suspect's claim that he packed the cable TV box because he planned to use it to watch television in his Cancun hotel room. **Officials of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration were pleased with the arrest, which they called a good illustration of the capabilities of a \$1.25 million baggage screening device that went into use at the airport on Dec. 30. Kochmanski is the first person to be arrested with an undeclared gun since government screeners began a new policy of examining every piece of luggage that is put aboard every flight leaving the airport.** FBI agents said the screeners found a "fully loaded magazine" of ammunition and several more bullets packed with the gun. Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20030107/1000621.asp>
7. *January 07, Michigan Daily* — **Airport security plan follows national trend. The Michigan legislature passed a bill at the close of 2002 approving the new Airport Safety and Protection Plan (ASAP), which allows for nearly \$1 billion in airport safety and security improvements.** Drawing from local, state and federal funds in addition to sizable bond proceeds, ASAP will secure Michigan's airports through more intense screening of passengers, baggage and employees and tighter restriction on access to secure areas. The flexibility of the plan's funding will make it eligible for \$160 million annually in federal funds over the next several years and lays the ground for continuing improvement of the state's airport security capabilities, officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation said. **The state's decision is symptomatic of a national trend regarding airport safety and security. With federal funds becoming available, California, New Jersey, New York and many other states are launching similarly ambitious campaigns to update and improve security.** Source: http://www.michigandaily.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/01/07/3e1a7_6ad4114b
8. *January 06, Associated Press* — **Small airports are a security concern.** Much has been done to improve security at America's commercial airports, but **gaps remain in the nation's aviation system. Tens of thousands of small private planes are vulnerable to the kind of incident that occurred Sunday in Germany, where a man stole a motorized glider and threatened to crash it into Frankfurt's financial center before landing without incident.** It's unlikely that small planes will ever receive the kind of protection given to commercial airliners. **It would take billions of dollars to hire security guards and install special locks, fencing and metal detectors at each of the 5,000 U.S. airports that don't have scheduled service.** Warren Morningstar, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, acknowledged

there are security gaps but said every one of those airports has done something to increase security since Sept. 11. Morningstar said **fears are overblown that a small plane can cause anywhere near the damage of a commercial airliner.** A typical private plane weighs less than a Honda Civic and carries about 50 gallons of fuel, less than 1 percent of the 25,000 gallons a Boeing 767 can hold. **Some fear private planes could easily be used to spread panic, as they did on Sunday.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18728-2003Jan6.htm> 1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

9. *January 07, Press of Atlantic City* — **FDA wary of shellfish beds in NJ. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is threatening to shut down New Jersey's shellfish industry because the state does not have enough marine-enforcement officers to ensure pollution-tainted oysters and clams are not sold to the public.** About 23 percent of New Jersey's coastal waters are closed to shellfish harvests year round or during warm-weather months because of pollution concerns, and the state Department of Environmental Protection is supposed to enforce the closed areas with a prescribed number of patrols. The DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife has so few marine-enforcement officers that 63 percent of condemned shellfish waters are not getting the minimum level of patrols, according to the FDA's most recent evaluation of New Jersey shellfish program. **"The deficiency in the patrol element has the potential to jeopardize the entire shellfish program for the state of New Jersey,"** wrote Susan M. Setterberg, the FDA's central region director, in a letter accompanying the annual report.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/newjersey/010703SHELLFISH06_3RD_4TH.html

10. *January 06, Associated Press* — **Virus detected in Louisiana bass. Largemouth bass virus has been detected in Louisiana, but experts say it should not deplete the area's fish population.** The virus was first detected in 1995 and is found throughout the South, affecting fish, amphibians and insects. Bass will probably build a resistance to the virus, said Mike Wood of the state Inland Fisheries Division. **"Animals with resistance to the virus will live and reproduce and will tend to pass on that resistance to their offspring. In this way, LMBV will likely become just another pathogen that exists in the environment but rarely causes disease,"** Wood said. State and federal experiments have been conducted on the virus, but there are still questions about where, why and how the virus has affected Louisiana waters. **The virus caused three Louisiana fish kills in 2000, in Lake Bruin, Lake Concordia and False River.**

Source: http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/newsflash/getstory.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?n5439_BC_LA--BassVirusana

11. *January 06, Western Producer (Canada)* — **Time is of the essence when fighting epidemic.**

When Alberta cattle producer Arno Doerksen travelled to Great Britain to survey the aftermath of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), he learned time is crucial when handling a disaster. The British learned working faster in a shorter time frame could have reduced the seriousness of the situation. The British have been accused of not acting quickly enough when the first signs of disease were reported. **If FMD appeared anywhere in Canada, it would likely be noticed quickly because there are no blister-type diseases here, said veterinarian Larry Delvar of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Acting quickly enough may not be a problem but the shortage of staff could be serious, he said. The agency does not have the resources for a major disaster and help would be required from all levels of government, military and producers.** Plans must be in place across all levels of government and military because producers expect someone to be prepared when disaster strikes. "We've made tremendous strides in the last year. Will we be able to mobilize right away? You bet. Better than we could four years ago," Delvar said.

Source: <http://www.producer.com/articles/20030102/livestock/20030102ls01a.html>

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Food Sector

12. *January 06, United Press International* — **Safety of transgenic animals doubted. Genetically engineered animals, which could be in food markets by next year, could pose hazards to human health and the environment, experts told United Press International Monday.** The comments came as a panel of scientists convened by the government kicked off a three-day meeting to discuss the health risks of genetically modified plants and animals. **A panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) began their second meeting Monday to discuss methods for identifying unintended health effects of genetically engineered foods.** The panel will address issues related to both genetically modified plants and animals. The first meeting was held in September and panelists expect to issue a report on their conclusions in 2004 to help the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other agencies determine how to regulate these products. **FDA representatives will make a presentation at the NAS meeting, in which they will report the agency has decided to classify genetically engineered or transgenic animals as drugs for regulatory purposes.** This has the benefit of requiring a mandatory safety review for these animals. A report issued by a different NAS panel in August concluded transgenic animals probably were safe to eat but recommended further research before finally declaring them totally safe for humans. **Although no genetically engineered animals have been approved by the FDA for human consumption in the United States, several are being developed.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20030106-041351-4771r.htm>

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Water Sector

13. *January 07, Tampa Tribune* — **As desalination plant readies, eyes turn to Tampa, Florida.**
By the end of this month, water is expected to be flowing to faucets from the nation's only

operational seawater desalination plant in Tampa Bay. The initial output is uncertain, but by March the plant will reach its full capacity of 25 million gallons a day. That's roughly 10 percent of what Tampa Bay Water, the region's water supplier, provides public utilities each day in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties and the cities of St. Petersburg, Tampa, and New Port Richey. **Each gallon of water from the plant will reduce what is taken from overworked wellfields by the same amount.** Improvements in technology and the eagerness of companies to build the nation's first operational desalination plant helped push prices down. **Even though it was still more expensive than water from wellfields, Tampa Bay Water was under severe pressure to reduce pumping in Pasco and northwest Hillsborough and to find water sources other than ground water.**

Source: <http://tampatrib.com/nationworldnews/MGAY97ZWLAD.html>

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Public Health Sector

14. *January 07, United Press International* — **Stomach virus spreads through Boston. A stomach virus blamed for sickening cruise ship passengers in recent months was reported Tuesday at near epidemic levels in the Boston area.** Health officials said many hospital emergency rooms in the region have been swamped with people complaining of severe symptoms of the Norwalk virus, a contagious microbe. "We have about 700 cases" in the Boston area, said John Auerbach, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission. It is almost at "an epidemic level," he said. **Health officials fear the illness is even more widespread in the general public because most individual cases are not reported.**

Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030107-093249-1533r>

15. *January 07, WOWT-Omaha* — **Anthrax study in progress.** After the anthrax scare in 2001, the U.S. Health Department recommended that only high-risk people should receive a vaccination. One year later, here's a look at what the government is doing to make the most out of a limited supply. The vaccine, around since 1970, is currently given to protect the military and at-risk lab workers. Dr. Scott Parker, with the University of Alabama says, "We also now know that it can be a domestic threat as well, that all Americans may be at risk of anthrax infections." **Dr. Parker heads the five-year CDC study being done at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Researchers will examine whether anthrax vaccinations are just as effective with fewer shots, leaving more vaccine to go around. Dr. Parker says, "If the study is successful, then we will present data to the FDA showing that as few as four shots can be given over three-and-a-half years, instead of the current regimen which uses eight shots over three-and-a-half years."**

Source: <http://www.wowt.com/news/features/6/172876.html>

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Government Sector

16. *January 06, Associated Press* — **House to create committee to monitor Homeland Security.** The House is creating a new committee to oversee the Homeland Security Department

that is to take shape this year. House Republicans agreed to the new panel as part of a package of organizing rules that the entire House will vote on Tuesday when the 108th Congress opens, GOP Conference Chairman Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio, said Monday. There has been some debate over whether congressional oversight of the new department should be handled by existing committees or a new panel. Pryce said the decision was to create a "select" committee, which, unlike "standing" committees, is created for a specific investigation or oversight function. The House currently has a select committee on intelligence. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-01-06-homeland-security_x.htm

17. *January 06, Government Executive* — **Naval school offers graduate degree in homeland security. Homeland security specialists can now earn a master's degree in the subject, thanks to a new program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.** The 18-month program, run jointly by the Justice Department's Office of Domestic Preparedness and the Navy, will bring together 14 students who have already distinguished themselves in a mix of civil and military emergency response positions at the federal, state and local levels. **Students enrolled in the program will supplement knowledge gained through years of experience in the field through classes on such topics as protecting critical infrastructure, intelligence sharing, and military support for civilian authorities. But, more importantly, the graduate work will help build relationships among emergency responders across the country and help bridge gaps between military and civilian homeland security experts,** according to Paul Stockton, a professor and associate provost at the naval school. The coursework is also designed to help students look at the broader issues that sometimes get lost in day-to-day work at individual agencies, Stockton said. For instance, some classes will encourage discussions on how to develop policies to prevent terrorism without violating constitutional rights to privacy. For more information on the new program, go to the Homeland Security Leadership Development Web site found at <http://www.hsld.org/public/home.cfm>
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0103/010603a1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

18. *January 07, Associated Press* — **War in Iraq could cause police shortage.** When a Tennessee man sped through all three tollbooths on the West Virginia Turnpike, he drove more than 75 miles before any state troopers were available to pursue him. The delay demonstrates the severe shortage of troopers in West Virginia's State Police force. It's a shortfall that could get much worse if 51 troopers who also are Army, Coast Guard and National Guard reserves get called for duty in a war against Iraq, State Police Superintendent Howard Hill said Monday. Law enforcement agencies nationwide may also feel the squeeze. "The effects of a (reservist) call-up would be devastating," Hill said, noting that he could lose 9 percent of his uniformed forces. **The nation's police forces have a disproportionate number of employees serving in the military Reserves, law enforcement officials say, so they suffer disproportionate staffing shortages in times of national emergency.** No group appears to keep statistics on the number of people in law enforcement who are also reservists, but anecdotal evidence puts the figure between 3 percent and 5 percent, officials say. **"It's a significant staffing issue faced by law enforcement agencies across the country," said Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, which represents 220,000 officers.**

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *January 07, Associated Press* — **Revised White House security initiative focuses on agencies.** An internal draft of the Bush administration's revised plan to improve cybersecurity, the **National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace**, is circulating among government offices and industry executives this week. In the new plan, the number of initiatives to tighten security for vital computer networks was reduced from 86 to 49. The plan no longer includes a number of voluntary proposals for America's corporations to improve security, focusing instead on suggestions for U.S. government agencies, such as a broad new study assessing risks. Among the draft's changes was the removal of an explicit recommendation for the White House to consult regularly with privacy advocates and other experts about how civil liberties might be affected by proposals to improve Internet security. The draft notes that the new **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** will include a privacy officer to ensure that monitoring the Internet for attacks would balance privacy and civil liberties concerns. The draft proposes to use the DHS to launch some test attacks against civilian U.S. agencies and to improve the safety of automated systems that operate the nation's water, chemical and electrical networks. The new version also says the Defense Department can wage "cyber warfare" if the nation is attacked. It warns that although it can be difficult or even impossible to trace an attack's source, the government's response "need not be limited to criminal prosecution." The new version also puts new responsibilities on the CIA and FBI to disrupt other countries' use of computer tactics to collect intelligence on government agencies, companies and universities.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18662-2003Jan6.htm>

20. *January 07, InfoWorld* — **MSN Messenger outage affects millions. Microsoft Corporation's MSN Messenger service went down yesterday.** According to a Microsoft spokesman, the service went down at approximately 9 a.m. EST, and the root cause of the outage is still unknown. The outage affected all 75 million worldwide users of Microsoft's .Net Messenger Service, including Windows Messenger and MSN Messenger subscribers, according to a statement from Larry Grothaus, lead product manager for MSN. The .Net Messenger Service is the back-end service that powers both the Windows Messenger and the MSN Messenger clients. MSN Hotmail e-mail service and other MSN services weren't affected, he said. Although service was restored for some users by about 2 p.m. EST, some users were still unable to log onto the messaging software later in the afternoon. Microsoft didn't have any more difficulties with the service late yesterday, but some users may still be shut out as the service scales back up, according to Grothaus.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/softwaretopics/software/groupware/story/0,10801,77308,00.html>

21. *January 06, CNET News* — **FCC considers changes to the broadband market. U.S. regulators plan to unveil a major overhaul in telecommunications policy in the coming weeks that could strengthen the hand of local phone monopolies in a number of key areas, including high-speed Internet access.** At stake are regulations governing how local phone

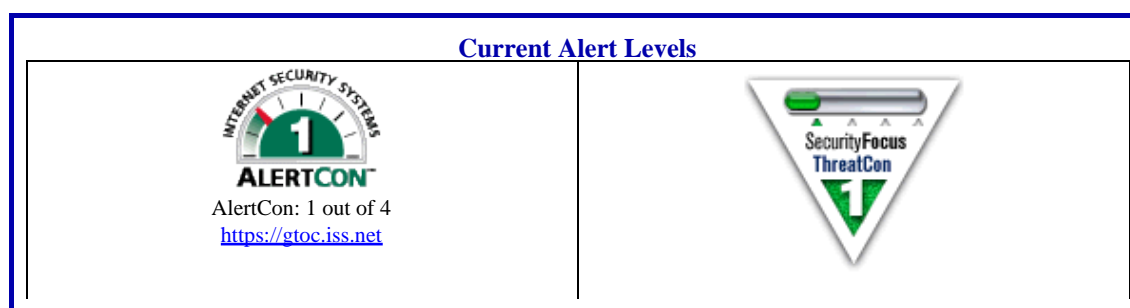
companies must treat competitors seeking access to their lines and facilities. Those rules, set in 1996, were intended to be the cornerstone of a competitive marketplace for services that piggyback on the local phone networks. But some top policy-makers at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have recently indicated that they believe consumers would do better if such rules were sharply curtailed. Small companies are worried about being driven out of business, companies as large as ATTare concerned about losing access to local phone networks, and the big local phone companies see a policy victory they've sought for years. **At stake is control over the future broadband networks and services, and by extension the range of services choices that will be available to consumers and businesses in any given market.** Since 1996's telecommunications deregulation, market competition has been fierce among cable companies, local phone giants, and a slew of rivals ranging from Covad to ATTthat use the local phone companies' networks for their own services.

Source: <http://news.com.com/2100-1033-979356.html>

22. *January 06, Security Focus* — **California disclosure law has national reach. A new California law requiring companies to notify their customers of computer security breaches applies to any online business that counts Californians as customers, even if the company isn't based in the Golden State.** So warned Scott Pink, deputy chair of the American Bar Association's Cybersecurity Task Force, in a conference call Monday organized by an industry trade group, Information Technology Association of America, and attended by approximately 50 representatives of technology companies and law firms. **The law, called "SB 1386," is intended to combat identity theft.** It was passed last September and will take effect on July 1, 2003. To trigger the law, **a breach must expose certain type of information: specifically, customers' names in association with their social security number, driver's license number, or a credit card or bank account number. After such an intrusion, the company must notify the effected customers in "the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay."** The disclosure only needs to be made to California residents. But as a practical matter, Pink said, online businesses may find it easier to notify everyone impacted by a breach, rather than trying to cherry-pick Californians for special treatment. **Companies that ignore the law face potential exposure to class action lawsuits.** The law addresses a chronic problem in e-commerce – companies that are hacked are often reluctant to go public for fear of bad publicity or civil liability. But in forcing companies to come clean, the California law takes the opposite approach of the Bush administration's emerging cyber security policies, which encourage secret disclosure to government officials, rather than public warnings.

Source: <http://online.securityfocus.com/news/1984>

Internet Alert Dashboard



		Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 www.securityfocus.com
Current Virus and Port Attacks		
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]	
Top 10 Target Ports	137 (netbios–ns), 1433 (ms–sql–s), 80 (http), 445 (microsoft–ds), 139 (netbios–ssn), 4662 (???), 135 (???), 25 (smtp), 53 (domain), 443 (https) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	

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General Sector

23. *January 07, Associated Press* — **Six arrested in UK over poison discovery.** Anti–terrorist police said Tuesday they arrested six men of North African origin after finding traces of ricin, a deadly poison that in the past has been linked to al Qaeda and Iraq, in a London property. Scotland Yard's anti–terrorism branch carried out the arrests Sunday in north and east London, working from intelligence information received by police. **Ricin — one of the world's deadliest toxins, twice as deadly as cobra venom — is derived from the castor bean plant and is relatively easily made. It may be inhaled, ingested or injected. There is no known antidote. Police said traces of the poison were found on equipment and materials found at a property in the London neighborhood of Wood Green, where one of the men was arrested. A woman who was also arrested had been released, a police statement said. None of those arrested have been charged.** The material was tested at the British government's chemical weapons research facility, anti–terrorist branch chief David Veness and Deputy Chief Medical Officer Pat Troop said in a statement. Police did not say what the material was. "Tests were carried out on the material and it was confirmed this morning that toxic material was present," said the statement. **Scotland Yard said it had worked with health officials throughout the investigation. Public health workers have been told to look out for symptoms of ricin exposure, including fever, stomach ache, diarrhea and vomiting.**
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&on_re_eu/britain_terror_arrests_6

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NIPC Products &Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web–site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

[NIPC Advisories](#) – Advisories address significant threat or incident information that suggests a change in readiness posture, protective options and/or response.

[NIPC Alerts](#) – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

[NIPC Information Bulletins](#) – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

[NIPC CyberNotes](#) – CyberNotes is published to support security and information system professionals with timely information on cyber vulnerabilities, malicious scripts, information security trends, virus information, and other critical infrastructure–related best practices.

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